

# INTRODUCTION OF THE HOPE PLUS SCHOLARSHIP ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Hope Plus Scholarship Act, which expands the Hope Education Scholarship credit to cover K-12 education expenses. Under this bill, parents could use the Hope Scholarship to pay for private or religious school tuition or to offset the cost of home schooling. In addition, under the bill, all Americans could use the Hope Scholarship to make cash or in-kind donations to public schools. Thus, the Hope Scholarship could help working parents send their child to a private school, while other parents could take advantage of the Hope credit to help purchase new computers for their children's local public school.

Reducing taxes so that Americans can devote more of their own resources to education is the best way to improve America's schools, since individuals are more likely than federal bureaucrats to insist that schools be accountable for student performance. When the federal government controls the education dollar, schools will be held accountable for their compliance with bureaucratic paperwork requirements and mandates that have little to do with actual education. Federal rules and regulations also divert valuable resources—away from classroom instruction.

The only way to reform America's education system is through restoring control of the education dollar to the American people so they can ensure schools provide their children a quality education. I therefore ask all of my colleagues to help improve education by returning education resources to the American people by cosponsoring the Hope Plus Scholarship Act.

## REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS ACT OF 2005

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Remote Sensing Applications Act of 2005.

I introduced this bill as H.R. 2426 in the 107th Congress, and the House passed it in 2002. The bill was introduced again in the 108th Congress as H.R. 1292, and passed the full Science Committee. In this Congress, I'm eager to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to see my legislation through to passage in both chambers.

I originally introduced this bill mainly to address a real problem we have in Colorado, the problem of excess growth and sprawl. My goal was to point to a way to utilize the resources of the Federal Government to help foster wise community planning and management at the local level. As a Member of the House Science Committee and the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, it made sense to me to look for ways to help communities grow in a smarter way through the use of technology.

I have reintroduced the bill in this Congress because I still believe we need to do more to

promote geospatial technology. Geospatial data from satellites can produce very accurate maps that show information about vegetation, wildlife habitat, flood plains, transportation corridors, soil types, and many other things.

By giving State and local governments and communities greater access to geospatial data from commercial sources and Federal agencies such as NASA, I believe that the Federal Government can help bring valuable—and powerful—informational planning resources to the table.

My bill would facilitate this transfer of information. The bill would establish in NASA a program of grants for competitively awarded pilot projects. The purpose would be to explore the integrated use of sources of remote sensing and other geospatial information to address State, local, regional, and tribal agency needs.

State and local governments and communities can use geospatial information in a variety of applications—in such areas as urban land-use planning, coastal zone management and erosion control, transportation corridors, environmental planning, and agricultural and forest management.

But another potential application that has garnered much recent attention is the use of geospatial technology to bolster our homeland security.

Emergency management has always been an important responsibility of State and local governments. But in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, the scope of this responsibility has broadened. Geospatial technology can help States and localities identify the location, nature, and scope of potential vulnerabilities and the impact of potential hazards, as well as how to respond to events and recover from them.

Certainly it is important that we continue to add to our database of available geospatial information—more information is always better than less. But we also need to get maximum use of information we already have at hand. That is the need this bill would address.

State and local officials are becoming more familiar with the uses of geospatial technology for various planning purposes. However, there is a need for Federal agencies such as NASA, which has been pioneering the uses of satellite remote sensing technologies, to work with State and local organizations to demonstrate how remote sensing and other geospatial data can offer a cost effective planning and assessment tool.

I'm pleased there has been broad bipartisan cosponsorship of the bill and that it has earned the endorsement of a number of important national organizations. These supporters of my bill understand the importance of targeting geospatial information at the places where it will have the greatest impact—the local and regional levels.

The Remote Sensing Applications Act can help begin to bridge the gap between established and emerging technology solutions and the problems and challenges that State and local communities face regarding growth management, homeland security, forest fire management, and other issues.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will be welcomed by States and localities nationwide. I look forward to working with Members of the House, including my colleagues on the Science Committee, to move forward with this important initiative.

# IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF TIM MCCORMACK

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Tim McCormack, upon the close of his outstanding service as Cuyahoga County Commissioner. Commissioner McCormack's passionate and powerful resolve and unwavering focus on restoring our child welfare system has saved the lives of many children, and enhanced the lives of countless more.

Beneath Commissioner McCormack's straightforward and abrupt approach shines a courageous and compassionate heart, one that has guided him well and served our children well. Of the myriad of issues facing our county, Commissioner McCormack directed his focus on the plight of the struggling children and families of Cuyahoga County. Armed with compassion, integrity, intelligence, and a natural immunity to political pressure, Commissioner McCormack worked tirelessly to cut a clear path through the tangled web of county government, working to recreate a system of government that would serve as an effective entity where the lives of our children would be protected and assisted. Because of Commissioner McCormack's commitment, the families and caseworkers of Cuyahoga County now walk along the path of light and hope.

The work of Commissioner McCormack was a vocation, not occupation, and he consistently drove himself to work the best he could on behalf of his constituents. His efforts always exceeded 100 percent, and he expected the same from his staff and colleagues. A true hero and man of unwavering integrity, Commissioner McCormack used his high profile position as nothing more than an instrument of aid to others. His long-time commitment to public service spans nearly twenty-five years, evenly reflecting a biography of outstanding service to his constituents, especially to those in need.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Commissioner Tim McCormack, whose honest work and unwavering focus shed light on a broken system, and who had a profound impact on the lives of countless residents of Cuyahoga County. Commissioner McCormack's steadfast dedication on behalf of our most vulnerable and valuable citizens, the children of Cuyahoga County, will forever serve as a beacon of light and hope, and the torch he carried must be raised high again.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER TAX CUT ACT AND THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS TAX RELIEF ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 26, 2005*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce two pieces of legislation that raise the pay of teachers and other educators by cutting their taxes. I am sure that all my colleagues